

CLAIMS:

1. An article of furniture which includes:
a base having a front and a rear and a top surface; and
a backrest assembly having a front edge and a rear edge and slideably arranged
5 relative to the base in a plane parallel to the top surface of the base to adjust a depth of
the base as measured between the front edge of the backrest assembly and the front of
the base.
2. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 1 which includes a carrier
10 arrangement interposed between the base and the backrest assembly for facilitating
sliding displacement of the backrest assembly relative to the base.
3. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 2 in which the carrier arrangement
includes a locking mechanism for locking the backrest in a first position at which the
15 depth of the base has a minimum length dimension, a second position at which the
depth of the base has a maximum length dimension and at least certain positions
between the first position and the second position.
4. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 in which the backrest
20 assembly includes a backrest member and at least one armrest extending at an angle
from the backrest member.
5. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 4 in which the backrest member
defines the front edge and the rear edge of the backrest assembly.
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6. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5 in which the backrest
assembly includes two armrests.
7. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 6 in which the armrests extend at
30 right angles to the backrest member.
8. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7 in which the carrier
arrangement includes a pair of rails, one rail being arranged beneath each armrest of the
backrest assembly.

9. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 8 in which a runner is displaceably arranged on each rail, each runner being secured to an underside of its associated armrest.
- 5 10. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 9 which includes a locking mechanism for locking each runner and its associated rail relative to each other.
11. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 10 in which the locking mechanism includes a concealed operating member.
- 10 12. An article of furniture as claimed in any one of claims 9-11 in which the rails are arranged in a concealed position on the base with the runners being carried on a lower side of each of the armrests so that, when the backrest assembly is at either of its limits of movement, the rails remain concealed beneath the armrests.
- 15 13. An article of furniture as claimed in any one of claims 4-12 in which the rear edge of the backrest member is substantially in register with the rear of the base when the backrest assembly is in its first position relative to the base.
- 20 14. An article of furniture as claimed in any one of claims 4-13 in which the rear edge of the backrest member overhangs the rear of the base when the backrest assembly is in its second position relative to the base.
- 25 15. An article of furniture as claimed in any one of the preceding claims which is in the form of a sofa.
16. A locking mechanism which includes:
a tubular housing defining an aperture in a peripheral wall;
a locking member receivable in the aperture, the locking member being
30 displaceable between a first position in which it protrudes through the aperture and a second position in which it is at least partially withdrawn into the aperture; and
a displacement member movably received in the housing, the displacement member being displaceable between a locking orientation and an unlocking orientation, when the displacement member is in its locking orientation the locking member is
35 urged partially out of the aperture in the housing to protrude a predetermined extent through the housing to effect locking and, when the displacement member is in its

unlocking orientation, the locking member is free to be at least partially withdrawn into the housing to effect unlocking.

17. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 16 which includes an urging means
5 for urging the displacement member to its locking orientation.

18. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 17 in which the urging means effects linear displacement of the displacement member relative to the housing.

10 19. A locking mechanism as claimed in any one of claims 16-18 which includes an operating member which acts on the displacement member for displacing the displacement member, relative to the housing, between its locking orientation and its unlocking orientation.

15 20. A locking mechanism as claimed in any one of claims 16-19 in which the displacement member is in the form of a rod received in a passage of the housing.

21. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 20 in which the rod has a notch defining a ramped surface formed proximate an end of the rod received in the housing.
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22. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 21 in which the ramped surface bears against the locking member and retains the locking member in register with the aperture in the body member.

25 23. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 20 in which the rod has an eccentrically arranged stepped region, of smaller diameter than a remainder of the rod, defined at or proximate an end of the rod received in the housing, the stepped region defining a first zone which is shallower than an opposed, second zone.

30 24. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 17 or claim 18 in which the urging means is in the form of a coil spring acting on the rod.

25. A locking mechanism as claimed in any one of claims 16-24 in which the locking member is in the form of a ball.

26. In combination:
an article of furniture as claimed in any one of claims 1-15; and
at least one locking mechanism as claimed in any one of claims 16-25.